

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned in the above-identified matter. An Interview Summary accompanies this response.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 20-23 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 4,843,630 to Catros in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,034 to Makram-Ebeid.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

The undersigned and the Examiner discussed the 101 rejection of claim 1. The Examiner indicated that the 101 rejection would be withdrawn if claim 1 is amended to replace "system" of the preamble with "physical computer-readable medium comprising code." In addition, Applicants have amended the dependent claims of claim 1 for consistency. Support for the amendment is provided at least by Fig. 2 and teachings of paragraphs 0024-0026 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 101 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11 and 25-28 in the next Action.

Referring to independent claim 20, the Examiner indicated that the claim would be allowable if the language added by the RCE filed June 2007 was deleted and the language "that utilize a pixel neighborhood defined by a scale parameter" is inserted after "gradient calculations."

Applicants submit the amendment to claim 20 herewith and respectfully request withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claim 20 in the next Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 20 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Referring to claim 33, the Examiner indicated that claim 33 would be allowable if "includes" is replaced by "is configured to implement." Applicants submit the amendment to claim 33 herewith and respectfully request withdrawal of indefiniteness rejection of the claim 33 and allowance of claim 33 in the next

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Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 33 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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